

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1880.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June 1846

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THE WAR IN AFRICA.

London, April 25, 5 a. m.—The reports that the siege of Wepener had been practically raised were apparently premature. The Boer attack upon Col Dalgetty's northern position, as described from Masers, was probably a final attempt to reach the garrison before securing a safe retreat and, as Col Dalgetty successfully repulsed the attack, little further anxiety is felt on his account.

Lord Roberts has now spread a net which some 40,000 or more men and 150 guns, covering the whole western semicircle around Wepener, while Gen Hamilton has occupied the waterworks, practically without opposition.

The Seventh division under Gen Tucker, assisted by naval guns, has made a demonstration from Kamee siding, the Boers showing some opposition. At the same time a brigade moved out from Glen to take up a position on a range of hills at Genadendale, north of the Modder. The waterworks were found undamaged with the exception of the removal of the sliding valves of the pumping engines.

The Boers now can only escape, without risking an encounter, northward to Ladybrand, and the chance of a successful outcome of the plans of Lord Roberts depends on whether the British troops can reach Thaba N'Chu and Ladybrand before the retreating commandoes from Dewet's Dorp and Wepener.

All the correspondents report that the roads are in a terrible condition, which accounts for the slow progress of the British columns, and if the Boers are as well informed of the British plans as they have hitherto been, they are likely again to escape.

It is now within three weeks of the date predicted for the British occupation of Pretoria, and although the present operations, as suggested in some quarters, may be the beginning of the main advance, it is not certain that they will not entail a further halt at Bloemfontein.

BRITISH BEATEN BACK.

Pretoria, Monday, April 23.—An official bulletin issued here today says: "The federalists continue their fighting at Wepener and have captured a herd of Gen Brabant's cattle and horses."

"Gen Dewet's losses at Dewet's dorp were one man killed and six men wounded. The British appear to be retreating beyond Dewet's dorp."

"Cronje reports that with a strong commando he attacked the British northeast of Boshof. A heavy engagement followed and the English were driven from kopje to kopje. The federalists displayed great courage and resolution, and spiritedly chased the enemy in the direction of Boshof. Only two burghers were wounded. The British lost 15 men killed and left three wounded and eight prisoners in the hands of the burghers."

The Cronje referred to is undoubtedly Commandant Cronje, the second son of the famous Boer general, now a prisoner on the island of St Helena.

BLUE FOR THE BOERS

Paris, April 24.—Capt Leon, the French engineer who had charge of the Boer artillery and engineers, and who was shot in the head during the siege of Kimberley, arrived at Marseilles today. In an interview he describes the Boers as "splendid artillerymen." He said they never had more than 36,000 to 40,000 men under arms, and of these they had lost only 6,000, of whom only 600 had been killed.

"In my opinion," said Capt Leon, "unless the Boers win an important victory near Bloemfontein, they must be beaten in the end, and although Pretoria could withstand a long siege because it still possesses cannon and emplacements for those temporarily withdrawn, I believe the plan of the Boers is to take refuge in the mountainous region to the north, which is practically inaccessible, rather than to defend Pretoria at the risk of a heavy loss of life and the exposure of the population to the fire of the British."

Even Great Britain declares that the Transvaal annexed, the Boers will never yield and an army of 150,000 will be needed to occupy the country."

REPORTS FROM ROBERTS.

London, April 24, 11 15 p. m.—The war office issues the following from Gen Roberts:

Bloemfontein, April 24.—Gens Brabant and Hart yesterday turned the position occupied by the enemy, who tried to prevent their moving northward, and got into heliograph communication with Col Dalgetty, commandant of the besieged garrison at Wepener, who reported all well.

Gen Brabant had three wounded, one missing. Three were wounded on the previous day. The border regiment had seven wounded. At 1 p. m. yesterday Brabant and Hart were eight miles south of Wepener. The Eleventh division, under Gen Pole Carew, and Gen French's two brigades of cavalry reached Tweede Eluk yesterday afternoon without having met serious opposition.

Heliograph communication has been established with Gen Ruddle. A patrol of the Seventh Dragoons, under Lieut Jenkins, which was reported missing yesterday, has rejoined Gen French's camp, with the exception of Corporal Taylor and Private Cook, who are believed to be wounded and prisoners.

Mounted infantry under Gen Ian Hamilton, occupied the waterworks at Sanna's Post. As the enemy are holding the neighboring hills in some strength, the Ninth division, consisting of Gen Smith-Dorrien's and Gen MacDonald's brigades, has been dispatched to support Hamilton.

Gen Maxwell's brigade, formerly Gen Chermide's of the Seventh division, yesterday moved eastward and seized the hills covering the wagon bridge over the Modder river at Kraanskraal, an important communication much used by the Boers during the last three weeks. Our only casualty was Private Bram, New South Wales Mounted Rifles, taken prisoner.

After Worrying the British South of Bloemfontein, Boers Retire.

London, April 26, 5 a. m.—It is now apparent that the chances of Lord Roberts catching the retreating Boers in a net are very slender. The Boers have everywhere retired at the first pressure of the British advance, and the hope that Gen Ruddle would be able to induce them to remain at Dewet's Dorp until they had been forced to fight or to surrender has been disappointing.

No attempt was made to pursue the commandoes retiring from Wepener. Everything now depends upon the progress of General French's cavalry brigades, but they are entering a very difficult, hilly and practically unknown country.

The cavalry have already had a long march over heavy and sandy roads, and nothing is known regarding the condition of the horses. In any case it is now a race between the federalists and the forces of Gen French and Gen Hamilton.

The slowness of the recent movements of the British infantry and previous experience of the ability of the Boers to move rapidly, with guns and baggage, over their own country, lead to a belief that Lord Roberts' enveloping operations will fail and will have to be repeated further north. At the most, he will perhaps capture some Boer guns and baggage and bury the retreating burghers.

Considerable results have been attained in the relief of Wepener and in the clearing of the southeastern corner of the Free State of the Boers, but the Boer army, whatever its strength, has to be dealt with.

LORD ROBERTS' REPORT.

London, April 25, 4 57 p. m.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Bloemfontein, April 25.—Pole Carew's division reached Roodekop yesterday evening without casualties. Its advance was covered by cavalry and horse artillery, which drove back the enemy with loss, their dead being left on the ground. The mounted troops waited for the night. Greetfontein, and at 7.30 this morning were crossing the Modder river at Valebank, in accordance with my instructions to French to endeavor to place himself astride the enemy's line of retreat. French's arrival near the Modder evidently, however, alarmed the Boers, for they evacuated their strong position near Dewet's Dorp during the night, and it was occupied by Chermide's division this morning.

"The mounted infantry under Gen Hamilton drove the enemy off the kopjes in the neighborhood of the waterworks without casualties on our side.

"The Highland brigade marched 24 miles yesterday to support Gen Hamilton and halted for the night at Klipkraal, four miles short of Sanna's Post.

"Brabant and Hart are still a few miles short of Wepener and the numbers of the enemy appear to have

increased during the last few days. But it is not likely there will be much troops in the neighborhood of Wepener once Dewet's Dorp is occupied by our troops.

"I inspected the city Imperial volunteer battalion yesterday on their arrival at Bloemfontein. They are in fine form and look very workmanlike.

"I also inspected the first company of Imperial Yeomanry, which has arrived here. The men turn out smart and their horses are in admirable condition."

FLED IN TIME.

London, April 25.—The war office has issued the following from Lord Roberts dated Bloemfontein, April 25, 3 25 p. m.

"The enemy retired from in front of Wepener last night and this morning fled northeastward along the Ladybrand road. Their number was between 4,000 and 5,000."

THE OTHER SIDE RETIRES.

London, April 26.—A special dispatch from Pretoria, dated Tuesday, says that the Boers have reoccupied Boshof, the British retiring.

London, April 27.—Midnight.—The war office publishes the following dispatch from Lord Roberts dated Bloemfontein, April 26th: "Gen Ian Hamilton yesterday drove the enemy off a strong position at Israel's Poort by a well conceived turning movement which was admirably carried out by Gen Ridgely commander of the second mounted infantry brigade and Gen Smith-Dorrien, commanding the Eighteenth brigade. These troops are today advancing toward Thaba N'Chu."

"Our losses were slight, only one yet reported—Maj Marshall, Grahamstown Mounted Rifles, severe wound in the shoulder."

5 a. m.—Israel's Poort which is not marked on the maps, lies between Sanna's Post and Thaba N'Chu. Gen Hamilton has probably by this time arrived at Thaba N'Chu as he is using his utmost endeavors to cut off the Boers who are retreating from Dewet's Dorp. The Boer forces at Thaba N'Chu are not unlikely to make a stand to cover the escape of the convoys from the southward. They have laagers about ten miles apart, stretching from Brandfont to Thaba N'Chu with a base camp at Samalldell station.

A report comes that a small force of British mounted infantry had a brush with a party of Boers ten miles east of Kamee Siding, who were trying to establish a connection between Brandfont and the Boer forces to the southward.

Gen Brabant in the fight with the Boers at Wepener, had a narrow escape. Gen Pole Carew's advance was much hampered by the tardy arrival of artillery which prevented him from capturing Leeuw Kop before darkness set in and enabled the Boers to secure their retreat. Apparently Lord Roberts, with the commands in the hands of younger generals now has an exceedingly efficient army.

The report that the Boers had reoccupied Boshof proves to be untrue. Lord Methuen is still there and Gen Hunter's division from Natal, which was supposed to be going to Bloemfontein is arriving at Kimberley. There is evidence that some important operations are afoot in that district.

The Boers are showing more activity in Natal.

All the interest in the South African war is now centered in the running fight in progress between the burghers retreating from the southern portion of the Orange Free State and Gen French's horsemen and the infantry of Gens Pole Carew, Chermide and Ruddle. But the British hope of conclusive results is slim at present, the Boers escaping unbeaten and having accomplished an immense amount of damage. They cling to their positions as long as it was safe to do so and they have now slipped off to hold the next commanding ridge through a broken country admirably suited for a rear guard defense. Dispatches from Aliwal North under date of Wednesday, April 25, say the Boers left Wepener so hurriedly that many of the dead were left in the trenches unburied.

Commandant Cronje is reported to have been killed. According to advices from Bloemfontein, the attempt of the Boers at Brandfont to get in touch with the command at Thaba N'Chu was frustrated by a force dispatched by Gen Tucker from Glen.

A dispatch from Pretoria reports the arrival there of Lord Rosslyn as an unwounded prisoner.

Gen Botha Proving Himself Capable Successor to Joubert. Masterly Harassing Moves.

London, April 28, 4 55 a. m.—In Commandant Gen Louis Botha the Boers appear to have found a capable successor of Joubert. As a result of his insight and quick decision it may be assumed now that the retreating

commandoes have gotten safely away with the transport.

It is true that Lord Roberts' dispatch leaves much unsaid as to the whereabouts of other forces than those of Gen French and Gen Ruddle. Nothing is said about the troops of Gens Brabant, Pole Carew, Hart and Chermide, but the indications from Aliwal North show that several small commandoes are still hovering in the vicinity of Springfield, causing a certain amount of danger, and the advices from Dewet's Dorp, outlining the duties of Gen Chermide, justify the conclusion that it will be still necessary to employ a considerable body of troops to keep the Free State clear of Boers.

The position is that the Boers who began their raid a month ago by compelling Col Broadwood to retire to Bloemfontein, have gotten safely away to the northward, practically without loss, but with the advantage of seven guns, together with a hundred prisoners captured.

Meanwhile, the advance to Pretoria has not begun. Small wonder is it that muffled complaints and criticisms are beginning to be heard here and there against Lord Roberts. Two thirds of his entire force have been employed in effecting this small satisfaction, and the probability is that the whole force must be again concentrated on Bloemfontein before the main advance begins. As similar raids on the British communications are likely to be repeated it is evidently still a far cry to Pretoria.

The significance of Gen Hunter's division going to Kimberley, where mounted troops are also arriving daily, is now said to be a serious attempt to deal with the strong Boer forces on the Vaal river, now threatening to retake Barkley and then endeavor to relieve Mafeking. It will be borne in mind that Gen Hunter paid a hurried visit to Lord Roberts at Bloemfontein.

A temporary railway bridge has just been completed at Bethulie, where hitherto railway trucks had been transferred over the wagon bridge. This will greatly facilitate getting stores up to Bloemfontein.

Mr Poulton Bigelow, discussing the treatment of South African rebels, says that the wisdom of the United States government in not punishing the Confederates after the war of secession has borne good fruit, and he suggests that a similar result would follow a similarly liberal policy in South Africa.

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Morning Post, telegraphing Thursday, says: "Most satisfactory progress has been made in the accumulation of stores during the present week. Supply park now presents a respectable appearance. The prospects of a general advance are more favorable."

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Thursday, says: "There appears to be little chance of inflicting effective punishment on the retreating Boers. Commandant General Louis Botha who arrived at Dewet's dorp Monday realized the situation at once and ordered the immediate withdrawal of the Boers both from there and from Wepener."

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Chronicle, telegraphing Thursday, says: "The latest reports show that the Boers passed east of Thaba N'Chu, when going north. A prisoner reports that a commando which doubled back on the pursuing British is now making its way west in the direction of Leeuw kop."

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, under Thursday date, says: "The Boers who retreated from Dewet's dorp kept well ahead of Gen French's cavalry. Unless the enemy should make a stand at Kroonstad Lord Roberts will rapidly cross the Vaal river."

Other Bloemfontein dispatches throw interesting points of light upon the situation. One special says: "Seven hundred and fifty wagons of a Boer heavy transport train have reached Kroonstad from the south. Only light wagons have been left behind. The Boers have organized a specially mounted corps for foraging and other work requiring special mobility."

Another dispatch reports that before the Boers were driven from Dewet's dorp about 7,000 of them had been slowly retiring toward Ladybrand where large supplies are stored and immense cornfields are ready for harvesting.

VALUABLE WORK.

Col John D. Frost has been engaged for some time on a piece of voluntary work of value to the State. For many years there has been hanging in the office of the adjutant general a manuscript roll of the members of the historic Palmetto regiment in the war with Mexico. Recently the document has faded rapidly. Col Frost has spent many days retracing all the names with India ink. The work is now nearing completion.—The State.

The Penitentiary Scandal.

Attorney General Bellinger Appeals the Case.

Attorney General Bellinger has filed a formal notice of his intention to appeal from the decision of Judge Benet in quashing the indictment against Col Neal on the charge of failure to turn over certain money received by him as superintendent of the State penitentiary. The formal notice reads as follows:

State of South Carolina, Richland County—Court of General Sessions, April term, 1900.—The State, appellant, vs W A Neal, respondent, neglecting and refusing to turn over moneys to his successor. Notice of intention to appeal.

To P H Nelson, Julius Boggs and Cole L Blease, attorneys for defendant.

Take notice that the State will appeal to the State supreme court from an order of his Honor, Judge Benet, quashing the indictment charging the said defendant, W. A. Neal, with neglecting and refusing to turn over moneys to his successor, the superintendent of the penitentiary, and will ask for a reversal of said order upon grounds hereafter to be served.

G Duncan Bellinger, For the State, Appellant. Columbia, S C., April 23, 1900.

Mr Bellinger is not bringing the matter to the attention of the supreme court for the purpose of keeping up the litigation against Col Neal, but he thinks that the indictment he framed was correct and he wants the supreme court to indicate whether or not he was correct. Besides, there is an important principle involved. If the supreme court holds, in accordance with the line of the circuit court, that Col Neal had no right to receive money from convict contracts and that it was not specified in the act that this was one of his duties, but that it was specified that it should be turned over to the board of directors of the penitentiary, then Mr Bellinger thinks the State will have no trouble in winning its suit for the recovery of the money advanced through the discounting of notes made by the Ragedales and paid by the Carolina National Bank to the State penitentiary.

The grounds for the appeal will be filed later, the formal notice which is given being all that is necessary to secure the consideration of the appeal.

Senator Quay Loses.

Pennsylvania Boss is Refused a Seat in the Senate.

Washington, April 24.—Honorable Matthew S. Quay was today refused a seat in the United States senate on the appointment of the governor of Pennsylvania by a vote of 32 to 33. The galleries were thronged with multitudes, while other multitudes were unable to gain admission.

On the floor of the senate was every member of the body now in the city with scores of members of the house of representatives. The great throng listened with deep attention to the brilliant argument of Mr Spooner in favor of the seating of the former Pennsylvania senator and to the demagogic and fiery eloquence of Mr Daniel of Virginia, who appealed to his colleagues to do what, on his oath as a senator, he deemed right, and vote to do justice to him who was knocking at the senate doors. Mr Daniel concluded 10 minutes before the hour fixed for the voting to begin. The excitement in the senate by this time was intense.

There was a hush in the chamber as Mr Frye, in the chair, announced at 4 o'clock that the hour for the final vote had arrived and that the question was the pending motion of Mr Chandler to strike out of the resolution declaring Mr Quay not to be entitled to a seat the word "not." Amid suppressed excitement Mr Chandler demanded the yeas and nays and the secretary of the senate began to call the roll. All knew the vote would be close. The first sensation was caused by the failure of Mr Pettigrew, of South Dakota, to answer to his name although he was in his seat. When Mr Vest's name was called he voted "no" in a clear, distinct voice, thus dashing the last hope of the friends of Mr Quay, who had expected confidently that the distinguished Missourian would vote for his long time personal friend.

Sultan Must Pay up.

Constantinople, April 27.—The American note handed to the Turkish minister of foreign affairs, Tewfik Pasha, on Tuesday, is couched in peremptory terms, demanding immediate payment of the indemnity several times promised to Minister Strauss by the sultan. The note does not fix a time limit for an answer, but its tenor is not far from the character of an ultimatum. It has produced a great impression upon the porte which, however, shows no disposition to modify the attitude hitherto maintained, namely, repudiating the responsibility and seeking to diminish the importance of the matter. It is presumed that the porte's reply will be in this sense; and hence it is feared the United States government will be obliged to take steps to enforce its demands.

Turkey's decision to send an officer to America to study naval construction is interpreted to be another sop. It is the revival of an old project to buy a cruiser in the United States in the price of which the indemnity shall be included, so that the porte will be at liberty to say it has not paid the indemnity. The American government has already categorically refused such a compromise, which would mean prolonged negotiations and the dragging out of the matter indefinitely, to which the United States will not listen. As regards the indemnity, it is in the nature of a debt of honor. If the porte wants to buy a cruiser, that is a matter in no way connected with the indemnity.

Prohibition Committee Issues Call.

A State prohibition conference will be held in the city of Columbia, S. C., on Wednesday, 23d day of May, 1900, for the purpose of considering the propriety of suggesting candidates for governor and lieutenant governor to represent the prohibitionists of South Carolina in the Democratic primary, and also to announce the principles and purposes of the prohibitionists in seeking to obtain control through the Democratic organization of the executive and legislative departments of the State government, for the enactment and enforcement of measures which are in best accord with the highest interests of the people, and which will take the State out of the liquor business.

For the purpose of obtaining a full and free expression of the prohibitionists in regard to these matters, a call is hereby issued for them to assemble in their respective counties at the court house on Saturday, 12th day of May, 1900, to elect three representatives, with alternates, to attend the State conference on the 23d day of May, with or without instructions and to choose a county chairman for the ensuing campaign.

Joel E Brunson,

Chairman.

Waddy C Thompson,

J S Moffatt,

James A Hoyt,

Jeremiah Smith,

C D Stanley,

E D Smith,

Committee.

The Race Conference.

Montgomery, Ala, April 25.—Visitors from every quarter will be welcomed to the sessions of the approaching conference to be held here May 8, 9 and 10 to discuss the race problems of the south. After addresses of welcome by the mayor of Montgomery and the governor of Alabama, Hon Hilary A Herbert will make the opening address on "The Problems That Present Themselves."

Among others who will speak will be A M Waddell, mayor of Wilmington, N C; ex Governor MacCorkle of West Virginia; Dr J L M Curry of Washington; Rev C C Brown of Sumter, S C; Rev D Clay Lilly; Rev S D Statery of Baltimore; Alex C King of Atlanta; Clifton R Breckinridge; Dr Paul Barringer of the University of Virginia and W Bourke Cockran of New York.

Question regarding the education of the negro, lynching and the future of the African race will be discussed.

Atlanta, April 25.—Thomas J. Hunter, former auditor of the Atlanta and West Point Railroad company, was found guilty of embezzlement in the superior court today and sentenced to the penitentiary for five years.

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